

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

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HIGHLIGHTS

May 22, 2013 Meeting

BOARD RECOMMENDS FURTHER STUDY OF FINANCING AND CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS FOR HIGHWAY 156 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

It's not a question of if; it's more a question of how and, consequently, when. Members of the public *and* the Transportation Agency Board all agree that safety and congestion improvements on Highway 156 are needed. Finding a way to fund these improvements – which include a new alignment four-lane freeway, a local access road for residents, and a new interchange at the 101/156 connection – is the difficulty. The total capital cost for the construction is \$268 million. The Transportation Agency currently has \$44 million allocated for the project but, with traditional state and Federal funding sources scarce, the agency is looking for alternative ways to finance this project sooner rather than later, and tolling is one option being considered.

Last September the Board voted to approve a contract with RBF Consulting, A Baker Company, to provide the SR 156 Tolling Traffic and Revenue Study. The results of this “sketch-level” study show that tolling could generate sufficient revenue to construct the improvements more quickly than waiting for more traditional funding sources, which would delay project construction at least 30 years. With this information, the Board recommended that Caltrans conduct a more detailed study of the project, including an updated environmental review and a more in-depth financial analysis. The Board also recommended that Caltrans evaluate various interchange design options, financing possibilities for construction of the entire project, rather than having it divided into two phases, and work with the community to address the project impacts.

AGENCY SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR MARINA-SALINAS MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR PLAN

A multi-modal corridor to enhance the connection between the Monterey Peninsula and Salinas, through the City of Marina, is part of the Transportation Agency's long-term plan, and now the agency is requesting proposals from interested consultants for a comprehensive transportation and land use plan for the corridor. The conceptual plan will be a guiding document for development and roadway designs, and serve as a tool to raise money for the project.

Firms interested in the project can find information and the agency's Request for Proposals on the TAMC website: http://www.tamcmonterey.org/information/bids_prop/index.html

“ON CALL” PROJECT DELIVERY CONSULTANTS SOUGHT

The Transportation Agency is releasing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for consultants to provide Project Delivery Assistance services for various projects for a two-year period on an “on-call” basis. The focus will be on identifying the consultants who have extensive experience with providing project delivery assistance services for federal, state and locally funded transportation projects. Individual contracts for Project Delivery Assistance services will be awarded on a project-by-project basis.

Interested consultants will find the scope of services and RFQ on TAMC's website, http://www.tamcmonterey.org/information/bids_prop/index.html

The agency regularly uses lists of available on-call consultants to maximize member agencies' resources as funding become available for local transportation projects in our area.